

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SANTIA 11708 102116Z

11

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /052 W

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R 101358Z DC 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2542

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

UNCLAS SANTIAGO 11708

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, SREF, CI

SUBJ: CORVALAN/BKOSVKY RELEASEAS

REF: SANTIAGO 10655

1. WIFE OF DETAINED CHILEAN COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER LUIS CORVALAN ISSUED A STATEMENT DEC 9 QUOTING HER HUSBAND AS SAYING THAT THE GOC'S IDEA OF LINKING HIS RELEASE TO THAT OF SOVIET DISSIDENT VLADIMIR

BUKOVSKY IS A BAD ONE. THE STATEMENT WAS APPARENTLY DESIGNED TO CLARIFY WIRE SERVICE ACCOUNT REPORTING THAT IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH DANISH PRESS CORVALAN HAD SAID HE WOULD REFUSE TO PARTICIPATE IN A PRISONER EXCHANGE. THE DANISH PRESS IN REPORTING THIS REFUSAL HAD SPECULATED THAT HE WAS PROBABLY ORDERED TO STAY IN JAIL BY THE SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY. THE GOC-OWNED "CRONISTA" PLAYED UP THIS SPECULATION LOCALLY.

2. CORVALAN SAID HE HAD TOLD THE DANES ONLY THAT HE THOUGHT THE INITIATIVE CONCERNING A PRISONER EXCHANGE WAS A BAD IDEA. HE ADDED THAT HE WAS IN JAIL FOR HIS IDEALS AND PREPARED TO REMAIN THERE FOR AS LONG AS NECESSARY. THE STATEMENT POINTEDLY DID NOT MENTION ANY REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE IN AN EXCHANGE.

3. COMMENT: CORVALAN'S CONTINUED DETENTION IS A FLAW IN AN OTHERWISE COMMENDABLE RELEASE OF STATE OF SIEGE DETAINEES. CONSERVATIVE DAILY, "EL MERCURIO", EARLIER HAD COMMENTED THAT HIS CONTINUED DETENTION WAS UNCLASSIFIED

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ERODING THE INITIAL POSITIVE RESPONSE TO THE RELEASES
(SANTIAGO 11301). THE GOC PLAYED UP THE DANISH STORY
AS AN INDICATION THAT CORVALAN AND THE SOVIET COMMUNIST
PARTY WANT HIS CONTINUED DETENTION. CORVALAN'S
PARTIAL DISCLAIMER AGAIN PLACES THE MONKEY ON THE GOC'S
BACK.
POPPER

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Draft Date: 10 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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04 MAY 2006

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